

CHRISTIAN UNITY



Newsletter

VOL. III

NOVEMBER, 1957

No. 3

JARMAN TO HEAD COUNCIL

W. J. Jarman, minister of University Place Christian Church in Champaign, Illinois, was elected President of the Council on Christian Unity at the annual meeting of the Council's Board of Directors in Cleveland last month.

Mr. Jarman, who is 41 years of age, was ordained into the ministry in 1933. He received his A. B. degree from the University of Missouri in 1937 and his B. D. degree from Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1940. He has also done some graduate work at the University of Missouri. During his college days, Mr. Jarman served as pastor of the Martinsburg Community Church in Martinsburg, Missouri. Following his work at Union, he returned to Missouri to serve the First Christian Church in Paris. Then, after serving as a chaplain in the U. S. Navy from 1942-46, Mr. Jarman went to the First Christian Church in Mexico, Missouri for two years. Since 1948 he has served as pastor of the University Place Christian

Church in Champaign and as director of the Illinois Disciples' Foundation.

Jarman succeeds Dr. Hampton Adams, minister of Park Avenue Christian Church, New York City, who has served as President of the Council

for the past five years. At the Tuesday evening session of the International Convention in Cleveland, the Council on Christian Unity, on behalf of the

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Mr. Jarman

REPORT TO THE CHURCHES

In 1941 the International Convention requested the Council on Christian Unity to guide Disciples in their support of ecumenical causes. Here is the latest report of the Council.

World Council Support Encouraging

Since 1938 the number of Disciples congregations giving direct support to the World Council has jumped from 4 to 507. Total gifts have climbed from \$131.20 to \$14,058.38. (See graphs on page 5). According to the Disciples *Year Book*, which lists all churches making contributions to the World and National Councils, local church contributions in 1956 ranged from \$.85 to \$400.00. Seven churches contributed \$200 or more; 30 contributed \$100 or more; 90 contributed \$50 or more. Park Avenue Church, New York City, contributed \$350, and Vine Street Church, Nashville, contributed \$400.

National Council Support Up

Beginning in 1943 with 297 Disciple churches giving a total of \$4,120.79 to

the Federal Council of Churches, Disciples support of the National Council has steadily grown until in 1956, 859 Disciple congregations contributed a total of \$25,132.89. (See graphs on page 5). According to the *Year Book*, local church contributions in 1956 ranged from \$1.04 to \$450. Fourteen churches contributed \$200 or more; 56 contributed \$100 or more; 142 contributed \$50 or more. The four largest contributions were made by University Place Church, Champaign, \$300; Park Avenue Church, New York City, \$350; First Church, Oklahoma City, \$425; and First Church, Houston, \$450.

World Council Work Expanding

Prior to 1948, the World Council had no budget, and simply cut its program from year to year to fit contributions

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Members of the World Council Finance and Headquarters Committee Consider New Plans: Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, USA; Mr. Frank Northam, WCC's Director of Finance and Administration; Dr. S. M. Cavert, WCC Executive Secretary in the USA; and Mr. R. D. Paul, South India.



Mr. Adams

REPORT TO THE CHURCHES

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received. In 1948, Disciples contributions from churches and other sources totaled \$6,678.71. World Council operations at that time were limited and financially precarious.

At Amsterdam in 1948, the churches agreed that the World Council should operate on the basis of responsible stewardship and sound business practices. A budget was drawn up totalling \$363,000, and quotas were suggested to the churches for their support. The Disciples quota from Amsterdam, 1948, to Evanston, 1954, was set at \$15,237.50 per year. During that period receipts from Disciples congregations averaged just under \$10,000. The balance was paid in full, because certain other gifts to the World Council for evangelism and youth work could be credited against the Disciples quota. By 1954, congregational support had risen to just \$4,000 short of the quota, and would possibly have equalled the total quota in two or three more years.

In the meantime, the work of the churches through the World Council was seriously crippled because of the ceiling fixed on the budget at Amsterdam. At Evanston, therefore, the Churches agreed to up the budget by nearly 25% to \$441,000. The Disciples quota became \$19,050, and presumably will remain there until the next assembly in 1960.

National Council Needs

The National Council budget is made up of two parts: the program budgets of the several divisions and a general budget for the Council as a whole.

The program budgets are essentially the operating budgets of the former bodies which were brought together in 1951 to form the National Council of Churches. Our own Disciples agencies which were supporting national agencies prior to 1951 have continued to support the continuing functions of those agencies through the organization of the National Council. In 1955 a total of \$175,144 was contributed to the National Council's divisional program budgets by the following Disciples agencies: International Convention, Unified Promotion, Week of Compassion,

United Christian Missionary Society, Board of Higher Education, Council on Christian Unity, Board of Church Extension, National Benevolent Association, Pension Fund, and the Christian Board of Publication.

The general budget provides for new work undertaken by the Council apart from that of its earlier bodies, as well as program research, church building, ecumenical relations, and central operations.

The organization of the National Council provides that the major share of support for its general budget should come from local churches. Towards this general budget of \$500,000, Disciples churches, last year, provided a total of \$24,839.62, just \$7,760.38 short of our "fair share" goal.

Unity Rests on Believing Congregations

As a principle Disciples have maintained that Christian unity, to have a solid foundation, must rest on the support of local congregations. Disciples have therefore provided support for ecumenical causes by including items for them in local church budgets, or through special offerings at Pentecost, World Communion Sunday, or Reformation Sunday. In the long run, we believe this principle is sound. But, presently, we are about 3,000 congregations short of an adequate participation in the programs of the National and World Councils.

Urgent Action Needed!

Disciples' share of the 1957 budget of the World Council of Churches is \$19,050. Toward this total obligation 411 local churches have contributed \$10,655.05 as of October 28. Another \$8,394.95 is needed before December 31.

The 1957-58 goal for Disciples' support of the National Council is \$32,600. As of September 30th, local churches have contributed \$5,493.50 toward this goal. The amount still needed to reach the goal is \$27,106.50.

To close the gap more quickly between our obligation and our present contributions, and to strengthen the foundations of Christian unity, the

Cleveland Assembly of the International Convention passed the following resolutions:

Support of NCC and WCC:

Disciples of Christ are committed to the purposes represented in the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. The expanding work of the churches through these bodies has claimed our growing interest and support.

Our financial contribution to the World Council through local congregations has increased by 6% over last year, and is only \$5,000 short of our \$19,050 "fair share" of the World Council's budget.

Our financial contribution to the National Council through local congregations has increased by 8% over last year, and is only \$7,500 short of our \$32,600 share of the National Council's budget.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

a) that every local congregation be urged to make some contribution to the budgets of the National and World Councils in the current year;

b) that congregations presently contributing to these budgets be urged to increase their contributions to at least 25% above their 1955 level of giving.

WCC Headquarters Building Fund:

The World Council of Churches is engaged in the erection of a new headquarters building in Geneva, Switzerland, estimated to cost \$750,000, of which member churches are asked to provide \$300,000 and individuals and foundations \$450,000.

The recommended share for Disciples of Christ is \$20,000.

More than half of the Disciples' share has already been received through grants averaging about \$100 from a small number of congregations.

WHEREFORE, BE IT NOW RESOLVED: that every local congregation of Disciples of Christ be urged to participate in the new World Council Headquarters Building by a special gift of \$10.00 or more for construction costs (c/o World Council Headquarters Committee, P. O. Box 5636, Irvington Station, Indianapolis 19, Indiana).

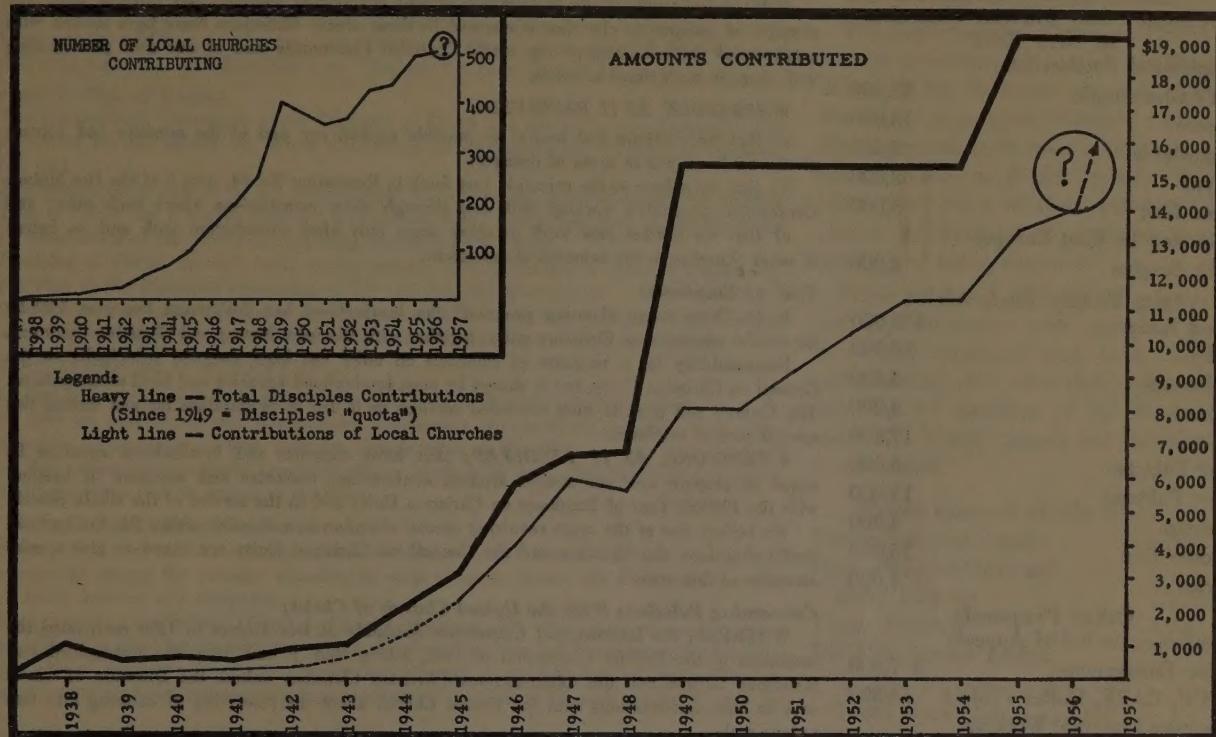
Local Churches to Implement

These recommendations are for consideration and action by every Disciple congregation.

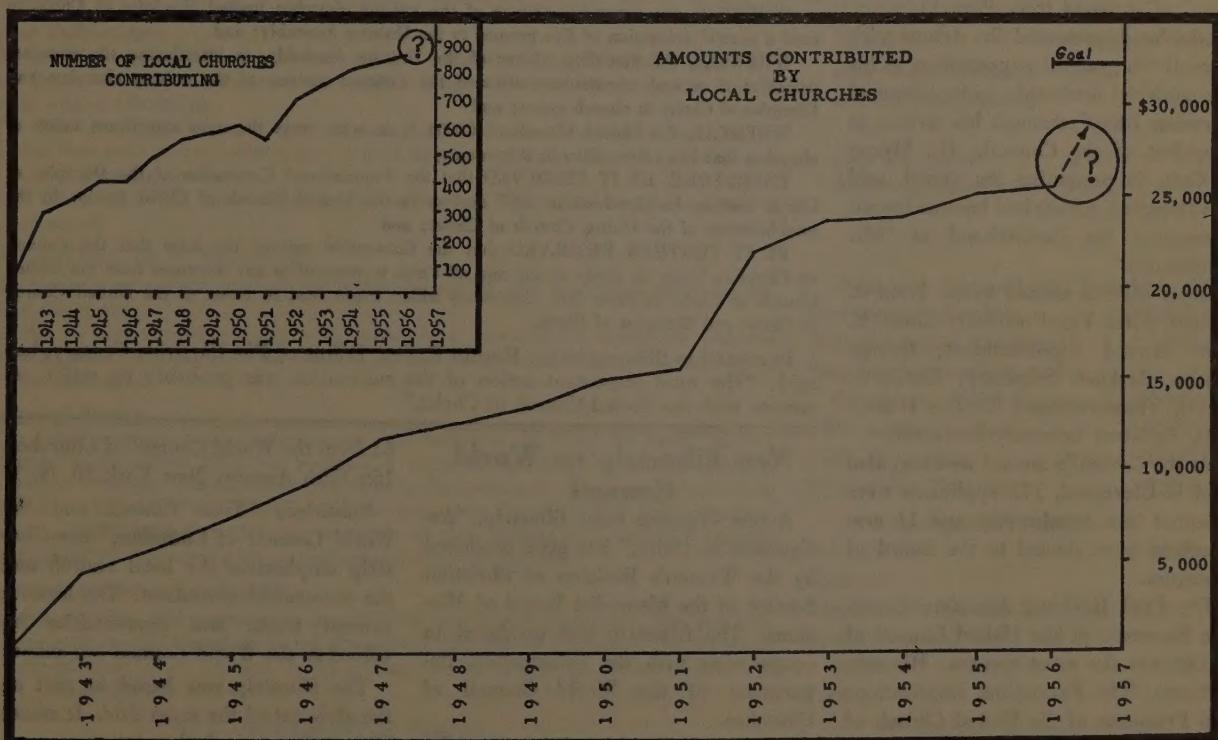
FUNDS for the REGULAR BUDGETS of the Councils should be marked "Disciples' quota" and SENT DIRECT to:

National Council of Churches
297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.
World Council of Churches
156 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

DISCIPLES SUPPORT OF WORLD COUNCIL



DISCIPLES SUPPORT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL



Service Projects

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Orthodox and Ancient Churches of Near East

Ecumenical Patriarchate,

Constantinople

\$2,000

Greece

13,000

Yugoslavia

5,500

Egypt

2,000

Near East

5,000

Orthodox in West Europe,

2,000

St. Sergins

Asia, Middle East, Africa

Hong Kong

\$10,000

India

10,000

Indonesia

4,500

Japan

2,000

Korea

17,500

East Pakistan

5,000

West Pakistan

13,000

Vietnam

4,200

Middle East

16,000

Africa

4,000

Other Proposals

Committee on Relief Appeals

\$ 7,500

for Emergencies

14,500

CROP, CARE, Heifer Project

Disciples Fraternal Workers

Overseas

20,170

JARMAN TO HEAD COUNCIL

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Brotherhood, presented Dr. Adams with a scroll "in grateful appreciation of his distinguished leadership in the cause of Christian Unity" through his service as President of the Council. Dr. Myron C. Cole, in presenting the award, said that Hampton Adams had become known throughout the Brotherhood as "Mr. Ecumenical."

Other officers elected were: Irvin E. Lunger, First Vice-President; Loren E. Lair, Second Vice-President; George Walker Buckner, Secretary; Harlie L. Smith, Treasurer, and Evelyn Honeywell, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

At the Council's annual meeting, also held in Cleveland, 171 applicants were accepted into membership and 11 new members were elected to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Fred Hoskins, Associate Executive Secretary of the United Church of Christ, was the guest speaker. His subject was "The Formation, Implications and Prospects of the United Church of Christ."

Cleveland Convention Unity Resolutions

(Concluded)

Help sent through Week of Compassion and ecumenical channels has brought hope and strength as indigenous churches ministered in these areas. Christians there have spoken with gratitude of the solidarity of the whole Christian Community and of our own participation with them in such times of crisis.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) that we continue and insofar as possible expand our part of the ministry and witness of the whole church in areas of disaster;
- b) that we adhere to the principle (set forth in Resolution No. 64, item 9 of the Des Moines Convention Assembly) working with and through sister communions where such exist; and
- c) that we initiate new work in other areas only after consultation with and on behalf of sister churches in the ecumenical movement.

Year of Emphasis:

In its "long range planning program" the brotherhood has designated the year 1958-59 for special emphasis on Christian unity, together with Disciples history and Christian literature.

Responsibility for a program of emphasis on unity has been assigned principally to the Council on Christian Unity, but is shared by most brotherhood agencies and local congregations. The Council will provide such expanded services as it can in preparation for and during this special year of emphasis.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that local churches and brotherhood agencies be urged to prepare now for special studies, conferences, institutes and seminars in keeping with the 1958-59 Year of Emphasis on Christian Unity and in the service of the whole church.

We believe one of the areas requiring special attention now is unity within the Brotherhood itself; therefore, the churches and the Council on Christian Unity are urged to give special attention to this area.

Concerning Relations With the United Church of Christ:

WHEREAS, the International Convention Assembly at Des Moines in 1956 reaffirmed the resolution of the Buffalo Convention of 1947, asking that, if and when the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational-Christian Churches united, the Disciples of Christ seek to have conversations with the United Church about the possibility of entering into that union; and

WHEREAS, Disciples of Christ in answer to a call by the Council on Christian Unity, observed a day of prayer for the United Church on a Sunday before the opening of the Uniting Assembly in Cleveland; and

WHEREAS, the executive officers of the uniting churches invited Disciples of Christ to send a special delegation of five persons to the Uniting Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the presiding officer of the Uniting Assembly, in introducing the fraternal delegates of several communions, stressed the common interest of the uniting churches and Disciples of Christ in church union; and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ is in some ways the most significant union of churches that has taken place in this country;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the International Convention of the Disciples of Christ meeting in Cleveland in 1957 express to the United Church of Christ its joy in the establishment of the United Church of Christ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Convention express the hope that the Council on Christian Unity be ready at any and all times to respond to any overtures from the United Church of Christ to enter into discussions which might lead to union of the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ.

In regard to this resolution Harold E. Fey, Editor of *The Christian Century*, has said: "The most important action of the convention was probably its action on merger with the United Church of Christ."

New Filmstrip on World Council

A new 77-frame color filmstrip, "Assignment in Unity," has been produced by the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Board of Missions. The filmstrip was produced in cooperation with the Information Department of the World Council of Churches.

The new filmstrip can be obtained for

\$4 from the World Council of Churches, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Subtitled, "Your Church and the World Council of Churches," the filmstrip emphasizes the local church and the ecumenical movement. The history, present work, and personalities involved in the World Council are shown.

The filmstrip was based in part on the slide set of the same title. It comes with a mimeographed script.

CLEVELAND CONVENTION UNITY RESOLUTIONS

The Cleveland Assembly of the International Convention of Disciples of Christ, October 10-16, passed the following resolutions concerning Christian Unity: (These are in addition to the two resolutions concerning support of the National and World Councils of Churches (see "Report To The Churches" on page 1).)

Greenwich Plan of Union:

The International Convention of the Disciples of Christ was one of the two national bodies which called for the setting up of the Conference on Church Union (Columbus Assembly, 1946); and

Representatives appointed by the International Convention participated actively in drafting a "Plan of Union for a United Church" (Greenwich Plan) which has been submitted to the unity commissions of the various participating communions for study.

Disciples of Christ, through local studies groups, have submitted a detailed commentary on the Plan to the Executive Committee of the (Greenwich) Conference.

In the meantime, several participating communions have themselves united or are discussing union with one another on the basis of principles similar to those set forth in the Plan.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) that we continue informal study of the Plan in local Disciples study groups;
- b) that we indicate to the (Greenwich) Conference our readiness to share with other participating communions in next steps for consideration of the Plan;
- c) that we express gratitude for those efforts which have gone into the Plan and which have already borne fruit in unions of churches.

On Missions and Union Churches Abroad:

Some of the most creative and courageous developments of Christian Unity in our century have occurred among the younger churches in such place as Japan, the Philippine Islands, South India, Jamaica and elsewhere.

More recently, in Thailand, North India, and Pakistan, and other areas where there are younger Disciple churches or mission stations, developments have led toward united churches.

The United Christian Missionary Society has adopted a strategy making it possible for churches established through our missionary efforts to participate in such unions, if they so desire.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that we commend the missionary statesmen of our brotherhood for this policy which affirms our historic passion for the unity of the church and that we hold firmly to our sense of comradeship with our fellow-Christians who enter into such unions.

Student Fellowships:

Since 1955 Disciples students have been engaged in conversations with Methodist, Presbyterian, Evangelical United Brethren, and United Church Students concerning an organic union of student fellowships.

The firm commitment of our students to the cause of unity has been self-evident. At the same time their sense of responsibility has involved them in very demanding theological studies and complex structural problems.

It is clear that such a union of student fellowships has implications for the total life of the brotherhood.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- a) that we commend our students and student leaders for their determined efforts for the cause of unity; and
- b) that we urge the entire brotherhood, through local churches and appropriate state and national agencies, to share with our students in the study, service and penitence involved in this common quest.

Ecumenical Study:

The North American Study Conference on "The Nature of the Unity We Seek," meeting at Oberlin in September, 1957, has produced a series of significant documents including some specific "findings," and has commended these to the churches for their study and comment.

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Council on Christian Unity work with local congregations of Disciples of Christ in the study of these matters and eventually transmit their "findings" to the ongoing interdenominational study of this topic.

Ecumenical Service and Fellowship:

Unexpected crises and opportunities for Christian service have drawn us in the past year into close contact with Christians in the Evangelical Churches of Poland, in the Reformed and Lutheran Churches of Hungary, in the Ancient Orthodox Churches of the Middle East and the younger churches of Asia.

Ecumenical Service Projects In Week of Compassion

The Department of Ecumenical Service has recommended projects totalling \$316,900 for inclusion in the 1958 Week of Compassion, February 16-23. These projects have been approved by the Committee on Relief Appeals. Detailed description of them will be included in Week of Compassion materials now being prepared.

These proposed projects have come out of conferences with churches in the areas concerned and have been recommended only after thorough consultation by members of the Department with World Council and National Council staff.

World Council of Churches

Evangelism and Youth	\$10,000
Ecumenical Institute and	
Unity Projects	7,000
Youth Projects	3,000
DICASR Service Budget	
Refugee Services	\$25,000
Youth Work Camps	2,000
Scholarships	1,000
Fraternal Workers	1,000
Literature	500
C.C.I.A.	500
Health	500
East Asia Secretariat	1,000
Staff, Office, Travel, etc.	3,500
Asia Co-operation	4,000
Africa Co-operation	1,500
	\$40,500
	40,500

National Council of Churches

Immigration Services	\$15,000
Material Relief Program	13,000
Surplus Commodities and	
Emergency Relief Program	50,000
CWS Administration	5,700
CWS Promotion	3,000
Scholarship Program	2,500

European Churches

Poland	\$4,330
Hungary	500
Germany, Berlin and East Zone	3,000
Spain, Portugal, Italy and	
Belgium	500
France	1,000

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Church Must Create Community Says Ainslie Lecturer

The annual Peter Ainslie Memorial Lecture, sponsored by the Council on Christian Unity, was delivered on September 10th, 1957, at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, Union of South Africa, by Dr. Ben Marais, professor of theology at the University of Pretoria, member of the Dutch Reformed Church, and author of the well-known work, *Color, Unsolved Problem of the West*.

Speaking on human diversity and Christian unity, Professor Marais expressed his sadness over the fact that "recent political happenings in South Africa and the reaction within church circles have deepened the gulf between the different Christian denominations in this country." The divisions and high barriers of race and color pose an "agonizing problem" for the Christian Church and its missionary task.

"Great new non-Christian forces are on the march and we see their shadows falling across all horizons of our Western world.

"A divided church faces this new world.

"The battle for Africa has been joined. As millions are freed from illiteracy and the power of old pagan gods and fears, what has the Christian church to offer these temporarily uprooted millions?

"Can and will the Christian church be a new home to them?

"The Christian Church will have to face tremendous competition in its quest to conquer the hearts and minds of the millions of Africa. . . . 60-million Africans have already been drawn to the Moslem faith."

And, in its struggle against Communism, the Church will have to prove that its own claim of creating the deepest possible community among men is real and not itself artificial and an idle boast.

If the Christian Church fails to create real community it is doomed.

An indication of the nation-wide interest shown in Dr. Marais' lecture is to be seen in the fact that it was written up in the Johannesburg "Star"—600 miles away.

Ecumenical Institute Calendar

The World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland will offer the following short-term courses in 1958:

April 2-12—"Prayer in modern daily life." A course for laymen.

June 16-30—"Evangelism and the Structure of the Church." A course for pastors of Younger and Older Churches.

July 2-12—"The Administration of the Church and Church Renewal." A course for local church officers.

July 25-August 15—A course for theological students. (Will include a few non-theologians recruited through the local S.C.M.)

Qualified people wishing to attend any of these courses should apply to: Dr. H. H. Wolf, Director, Ecumenical Institute, Celigny, Switzerland.

Oberlin Follow-Up Books Planned

Three books will be published as a follow-up of the North American Conference on Faith and Order held last September in Oberlin, Ohio. *The Nature of the Unity We Seek*, to be edited by Dr. Paul S. Minear, the conference secretary, will be the official report of the Conference and will include statements and recommendations of the Conference. The second volume will be a study course for local churches based on conference discussion, and will be edited by the Rev. George L. Hunt, Presbyterian, U.S.A. educator. The third book will be a symposium, including preparatory materials for the Conference and articles by ten or twelve contributors, edited by Dr. J. Robert Nelson, dean of Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Bethany Press, St. Louis, Missouri, is to be the publisher of the three books, the first of which is to be published in January.

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